

CHALLENGE



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REBEL AGAINST LIBERAL FASCISM



*Communism means an end to racism, genocidal imperialist wars
and smashing nationalistic borders.*

WEST ORANGE, NJ, December 11—The attempted genocide by the Israeli government has sparked international outrage among workers around the world. New Jersey has been one of the sites where sharp struggles between antiracists and Zionists have been on display. Antiracist actions led by high school students and teachers have been a catalyst for students and workers to fight back in the area. The courage

and multiracial unity of workers have also been met with nationalism and fear. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been involved in such a struggle at the urging of one of the parents in town. We stand alongside these workers and struggle to win workers to see that capitalism is the main enemy that needs to be smashed.

Students lead the way

Though there have been several protests at U.S. Senator Cory Booker's office, it was the students in West Orange who exposed the Zionists and their political misleaders. West Orange is a suburb of Newark and a town that likes to praise itself for its "diversity." During the George Floyd protests, West Orange saw multiracial rallies chanting Black Lives Matter.

But when a Palestinian and Jewish student organized a walkout to protest the genocidal bombing of Gaza, the Zionist leadership responded by getting the Mayor and Superintendent to shut it down. Then, on a Zionist Facebook group, they exposed the names of these high school students who were planning the walkout.

In response, dozens of students, parents, alumni, community activists, and teachers filled the board of education meeting to support the students. The unity of Jewish, Arab, Black, and white workers showed the bravery and potential of the larger working class to fight back. As a result, the students held their walkout a week later. This shows that when workers fight back they can win.

Liberalism and nationalism - a tool of the bosses

Like many movements that we are part of, liberal misleaders make sure they can control the mass line of the movement. In this case, many of the leaders are winning workers and students to focus on city and school officials. At one recent town meeting workers and students were protesting the appointment of a human relations commissioner. This person was also head of the Zionist Facebook group that exposed the

Continued on page 5

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★ **EDITORIAL** *Taiwan, flashpoint in
inter-imperialist rivalry..p2*

★ **MARYLAND** *Solidarity, not silence..p3*



★ **BROOKLYN** *resist racist bosses
requirements..p4*

★ **RED ANALYSIS.** *Ethnic cleansing was
always the zionist plan..p7*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Taiwan, flashpoint of inter-imperialist rivalry

Imperialist war drums are beating loudly in the Pacific as the U.S. and China vie to control resources, markets, and geopolitical leverage. At the center of this grab bag is Taiwan, the island republic claimed by China-- and viewed by the U.S. as a strategic counterpoint to China’s rising power. In advance of Taiwan’s January 13 elections, the two superpowers are competing for regional supremacy as they move toward World War III. Their maneuvers lay bare their bloodthirsty drive for profit and also expose the lethal dangers of nationalism.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) stands firm that working people have no nations—and no side in the capitalist bosses’ dogfight. The bosses cloak their insatiable greed in nationalist rhetoric and calls for a false unity with “their” workers. But all alliances with capitalists offer workers only misery and death.

The working class can turn inter-imperialist war into class war, a revolutionary war for communism. We can connect our communist politics to every struggle we’re immersed in, from the fightback against racist cop terror to strikes and struggles for decent healthcare. We can call out nationalist misleaders who distract the working class and divert their anti-imperialist anger. It’s up to the workers of the world to reject all criminal bosses and respond with international working-class unity and communist revolution.

Imperialists at sea

The South China Sea, a major shipping route and fishing ground, is a linchpin in the global battle for supremacy between China and the U.S.—and a flashpoint for inter-imperialist war. More than 21 percent of the world’s trade, amounting to trillions of dollars, passed through it in 2016 (CNBC, 11/17). China and the U.S. are Taiwan’s two biggest trading partners. The Taiwan Strait, the main shipping route for “goods from Asian factory hubs to markets in Europe, the U.S. and all points in between” (bloomberg.com, 8/2), anchors global supply chains.

Perhaps most important, Taiwan produces over 60 percent of the world’s semiconductors and over 90 percent of the advanced microchips that power everything from mobile phones and artificial intelligence technology to weapons of mass murder (The Economist, 3/26). China’s threat to take over Taiwan and its claim to nearly all of the South China Sea prompted U.S. rulers to bar Taiwan companies from selling their most powerful chips to China (NBC News, 6/29).

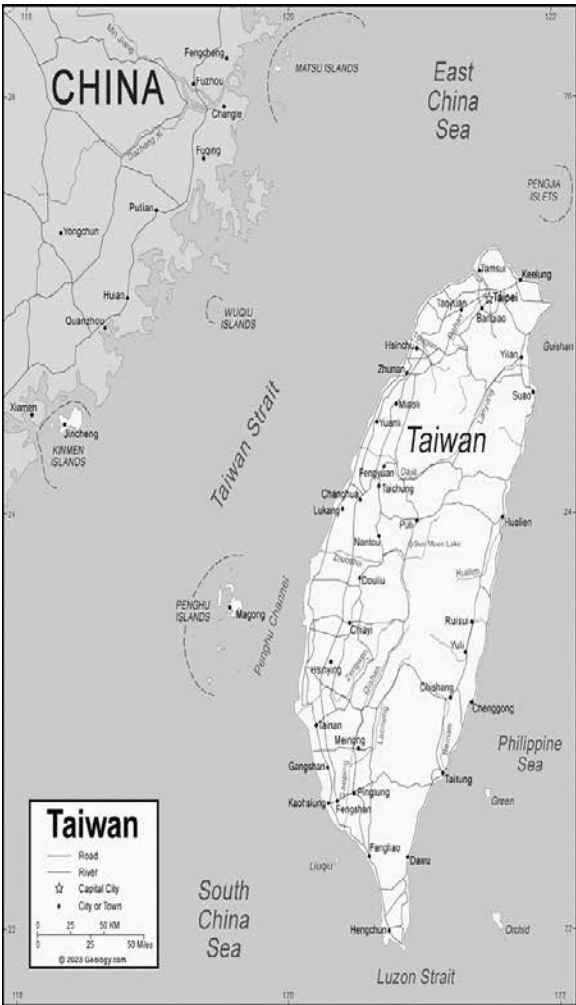
Fighting a rising global power

A decaying, divided, and desperate U.S ruling class is straining to contend with China, an economic giant that now sees itself as a global power and is acting as such. “Long reluctant to inject itself into conflicts far from its shores, Beijing is showing a new assertiveness as Xi Jinping begins his third term as the country’s head of state, positioning China to draw like-minded countries to its side and to have a greater say on global matters” (Wall Street Journal, 3/22). China’s willingness to wade into international matters sends a message to traditional U.S. allies that the old world order, dominated by the U.S. and its NATO allies since World War II, is a thing of the past.

In planning their takeover of Taiwan, China’s bosses have studied the Russian playbook. They have repeatedly warned the U.S. to steer clear of Taiwan. After former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the contested island last year, China defiantly conducted live military exercises in the area. While the U.S rulers want to avoid a military conflict with China until they are ready (Foreign Affairs, 8/23), make no mistake: War is coming. In a system based on theft from workers and the violent elimination of all competition, the imperialist bosses will ultimately have no other choice.

The dangers of nationalism

The poison of nationalism is an essential tool for the capitalists to win workers to fight in this impending war. China is fiercely promoting its nationalist “One China” rhetoric (The Diplomat, 8/16). Taiwan and U.S. bosses use similarly divisive tactics. With the upcoming election around the corner, Taiwan’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party has deployed former ambassador Hsiao Bi-khim to the U.S. to fan the flames of nationalist iden-



Taiwan’s strategic location on the South China sea and Pacific Ocean make it an important shipping route and an important chess piece in the U.S. and Chinese imperialists’ battle for global supremacy.

tity politics. Hsiao’s popularity with younger voters reflects a surge in Taiwanese identity across the island and diaspora. By contrast, the main opposition party, Kuomintang, which favors close ties with China, has chosen a hardline anti-U.S. media personality, Jaw Shaw-kong, as its vice-presidential candidate “to appeal to the party’s traditional base of mainland-descended voters.”

Whether pro-China or pro-U.S., no brand of nationalism serves Taiwan’s working class, which suffers from the diseases of capitalism: unemployment, inflation, stagnant wages, and housing shortages (The Diplomat, 5/15). Racism, a natural byproduct of nationalism, prevails as well. The country’s prosperity has been built on apartheid and the racist treatment of 700,000 migrant workers from Southeast Asia. They labor in unsafe factories and are exploited by third-party labor brokers (thediplomat.com, 10/10/19). Whether peddled by bosses in Taiwan or China, Gaza or Israel, Ukraine or Russia, all nationalism represents a counter-revolutionary attack on the working class.

Dark night shall have its end!

The Chinese bosses long ago reversed the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, the historic uprising for communism, and plunged the world into a dark night from which we still struggle to emerge. But Progressive Labor Party declares that dark night shall have its end! Workers around the world are already showing it is possible to reject imperialist war and identity-based divisions. Anti-Zionist Jews in Israel and around the world have bravely called for an end to the genocidal war in Gaza. International protests against Israel’s vicious ethnic cleansing have been filled with workers of all stripes.

PLP must sharpen the struggle to turn struggles against imperialist war into struggles for communist revolution. Amid the growing danger posed by rival gangs of capitalist bosses, we must maintain our unwavering trust in and dedication to the international working class. Our goal is to end this criminal system and build a communist world run by and for workers. Join us!

Teachers teach the truth

Solidarity, not silence!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, December 6 -The meeting of the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA) was greeted tonight by a lively contingent of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends circulating a flier and petition calling for “Solidarity not Silence” in the case of teachers being attacked for alleged antisemitism because they have supported Palestinian workers in Gaza.

On November 30, a Takoma Park Middle School teacher was charged with antisemitism and put on administrative leave because of Facebook posts protesting the massive attacks on Palestinian civilians by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Two other teachers in the same district have been similarly punished. Having the email tagline “From the river to the sea” can be a crime these days. While MCEA’s staff is making sure they get due process, the elected Body should follow the lead of other unions, including Local Transit Union 689, the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers, Postal Workers, and the UAW, who have called for a ceasefire along with the American Public Health Association (APHA). Petitions and resolutions are great steps but a walkout would be even better!

Students, doctors, workers, and organizations have been censured, fired, lambasted, and banned for false charges of antisemitism. Events have been canceled, and public and private funding revoked. In Maryland, for example, CASA de Maryland, which serves the immigrant community, was forced to issue a mea culpa and grovel for funding after they remarked on the horrors of the Gaza genocide. Legislators and private funders publicly shamed CASA and threatened the funding it uses to serve the needs of our immigrant community members — including public funds contributed in part by immigrants themselves through the taxes they pay. It is wrong to punish CASA for expressing solidarity, and it is wrong to punish the people



From our schools to the streets make antiracist internationalist education the norm to build the revolution for a new communist future.

they help by cutting funds to those in need of their services. The capitalist class uses the First Amendment to protect the speech of fascist and racist demonstrators while using its media to distort reality, but apparently, it does not protect those speaking up to defend

Palestinian lives. This smacks of the anticommunism of 1950s McCarthyism.

The Takoma Park teacher is a working class leader. Because this teacher works tirelessly with others to challenge a racist system that attacks workers by not investing in programs that the most vulnerable students, their families, and our colleagues need, this attack (and others) is intended to silence all of us. From culturally sensitive, age-appropriate reading materials to affordable housing, she strongly fights for improved conditions in the schools and communities where the most vulnerable students live and attend public school. She organizes with workers around housing and provides personal and organizational support to immigrants in the DC area. After thousands and thousands of Facebook posts on many topics challenging systems of oppression, why this moment? Because the U.S. government is desperate to support the Zionist Israelis who represent their imperialist interests in the Middle East, such as oil, pipelines, and sea routes.

The Facebook posts included a drawing of Israeli tanks aimed at babies in neonatal units and called the destruction of lives in Palestine by Israeli bombing “a massacre.” Condemning the Zionist Israeli government and its U.S. government support is not antisemitism. Nevertheless, an Assistant Superintendent came to her school and lied to teachers, claiming the Facebook posts contained inherent threats of violence and reducing one teacher to tears. Spreading lies and stoking fear is part of this orchestrated fascism. The fascists who write the Daily Wire piled on in this case and further attacked a 2020 post that called out the billionaires in Montgomery County for ripping off the working class. Posting the names of billionaires is NOT “anti-Semitic.” Lies and more lies will follow, and PLP and its friends who joined this action will continue to step up the struggle as it unfolds. ✊

Justice for Murod

Expose bosses’ racist kkkourts

BRIDGEVIEW, IL, December 5 -- The vicious and dehumanizing racist nationalism currently exploding across occupied Palestine by Zionist fascists was mirrored in a courtroom in the south suburbs of Chicago today. The family and community supporters of Murod Kurdi – a 28-year-old Arab worker who was struck by a vehicle and killed in June of this year – were forced to endure the cruel farce of what passes as legal proceedings under this capitalist system.

Murod was murdered on June 5th in front of his home in Oak Lawn by a white woman, Leanne Cusack. Cusack had been drinking at a bar before striking him and killing him just after he exited his truck on the street. The kkkops of Oak Lawn again proved their racist nature in failing to evaluate her sobriety and charging her only with “failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.” The killing of someone by vehicle merits, for these killer cops, a relatively minor traffic offense. Under this inherently racist system, the value of a worker’s life is next to nothing.

The racist murder of Murod, and the abuse heaped upon his family and so many other working-class people across this greater area are helping shatter many illusions among the masses that this capitalist injustice system exists to serve our needs. The international communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been active inside and outside of the courtroom to raise the demand that honoring Murod and so many other fallen workers means smashing this system that places private property and profit over all else and replacing it with a worker-run communist society.

Multiracial unity for Murod

A multiracial, multigenerational group of at least 30 workers came to the traffic court today and rallied outside to protest the pitiful charges made against Cusack, and to demand a penalty fit for the crime. Our presence inside the courtroom was certainly felt, as



demonstrated by the beefed-up security presence.

The guards didn’t miss a beat ordering people in the courtroom to not read, write, or talk. But even with all the threats and intimidation, one university student from Students for Justice in Palestine boldly kept raising an issue of our newspaper CHALLENGE with the headline “From the rivers to the seas, communism will set us free” for all to see.

Leanne Cusack pleaded innocent before the judge, apparently not even willing to accept blame for the pathetic traffic violation charge. Her sleazeball attorneys made empty statements of sympathy to Murod’s family members in attendance, but in practically the same breath pushed to discredit and undermine the testimony and evidence of his brother Suphi when he took the stand. In a cynical twist, one of the kkkops from Oak Lawn brought up to testify and help absolve Cusack from blame, Mark Hollingsworth, was one of the kkkops involved in the vicious beating of Arab teenager Hadi Abutelah in August of 2022!

In the end, the judge ruled her guilty with a penalty of a fine of only \$750 and thirty hours of community service. This is nothing even resembling justice or a victory for a worker like Murod or his grieving family. As his brother sadly commented after the ruling, “She gets to go home with a \$750 fine, and we get to go visit my brother in a graveyard.”

The capitalist system is guilty as hell – fight for communism

Despite the non-victory, this antiracist fight is far from over. The community groups involved in supporting Murod’s family are calling for Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx to formally file criminal charges against Leanne Cusack and for Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul to launch an independent investigation into the racist terror of the Oak Lawn Police Department.

While those of us in PLP fully support efforts to expand the scope of the struggle, we caution against having confidence that we can use the master’s tools to dismantle the racist structure of capitalism. Trusting in liberal misleader bosses such as Foxx and Raoul to deliver justice for our class has historically proven to be a dead-end. Either they fail to hold these racist killers accountable at all, or they make minor reforms that give the illusion that the system can work for us when it overwhelmingly never will. And even if Cusack received a harsher sentence, it would not address the racist conditions that imperil our brown working class brothers and sisters.

What lasts longer than any specific reform is the multiracial working-class unity cemented in struggles such as this one. We plan to continue fighting side by side with our fellow workers to advance a greater understanding of how capitalism works and how true justice will not occur until this miserable profit system is buried for good. ✊

LA schools

Zoom over the bosses' forced labor

LOS ANGELES—As the strike wave continues to roll across the country, more and more workers are gaining a deeper understanding of the true meaning of “labor power.” In Los Angeles alone, we have seen teachers, hotel workers, hospital workers, writers, and actors all take to the streets to fight for better working conditions, a living wage, and respect from their employers. Combine this historic moment with a communist educator who has been putting forward these ideas with teachers at a school for nearly a decade and some pretty exciting things can happen.

Charter schools are notorious for overworking their staff even more than traditional public schools. A charter network in LA where comrades work requires 10 more work days for staff than all the other schools in the county. Additionally, we have two professional development sessions a week which add up to one hundred hours of meetings each school year. So when the principal wanted to add even more training this year outside of our contracted work year, the teachers said “hell no.”

We started by trying to find a compromise with the principal. We would have these meetings if she canceled something else in its place. Of course that was refused. We decided collectively to file a grievance through the union. We found out it was not just our school where this was happening. The management of the charter network refuses to follow the definition of the workday in our contract and thinks they can add meetings whenever they want. This is just one small example of how education workers are exploited under capitalism.

The plan: no talk, collective action

The grievance process is unbearably and intentionally slow of course. The first meeting happened before we even got to step two of the process. When the second non-contractual meeting was coming up, we decided as a staff we needed more action than just waiting on the results of a grievance. During our union meeting, we decided that people should either call out completely and no-show on the meeting or for those who didn't have hours available for that, they could keep their cameras off and refuse to participate. The meeting was on Zoom.

The night before the meeting, the assistant principal sent an email trying to scare people from participating in our plan. She sent a veiled threat that people would be docked for not participating. Our comrade reached out to staff immediately to reassure the team that we must face our fears together and stand united.

Less than 24 hours later we would see just how united our staff was. Of the 28 teachers on campus, 12 were no-shows to Zoom altogether. Of the 16 who came on Zoom, 15 had their cameras off. Some teachers had planned to message the facilitator at the start of the meeting to let them know why we would not be participating. Our comrade sent a private message in the chat to the facilitator saying that this meeting was non-contractual and that's why so many teachers had their cameras off and we would not be participating verbally either.

Small victory builds solidarity

After about five minutes of welcoming people into the meeting and sharing the nearpod, the facilitator thanked us for all our private messages in the chat giving us the context of the situation. He said he is a union member also and therefore stands united with us and refused to facilitate the meeting. Both the assistant principal and our area superintendent were on the call, scowls on their faces.

A couple minutes later the person who seemed to be the facilitator's supervisor came on the call and asked the admin present if they wanted to reschedule the meeting for another time. After jumping off the Zoom for about five minutes, the assistant principal returned and said that since we all refused to participate she was going to close the Zoom and have a “nice” Thanksgiving break.

Ironically, the topic of that professional development session we boycotted was “checking for understanding.” Our action checked the bosses' understanding of where the power lies. While we will always be exploited workers as long as we live under capitalism, that day we got a small taste of our power as workers when we stood together. Nothing runs without workers contributing their labor power. The more we can help our coworkers learn that lesson, even if in small bites, the better positioned we are to fight for a communist world where exploitation is ended for good!🌐

APHA

Antiracist organizing leads to “ceasefire” statement & communist connection

ATLANTA GA, November 13—Twelve thousand public health workers descended on Atlanta for the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) conference. Some were there to learn, some to present their research, and some to network, but Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members were there to organize against fascism and for communist revolution. For weeks we had been planning to have a rally against Atlanta's COP CITY, which has revealed the true fascist nature of the Democratic Party politicians in Georgia (CHALLENGE, 12/13). But then the Israeli government responded to the Hamas attack on Israeli and migrant workers by murdering tens of thousands of Palestinians. This fascist attack was fully supported by the United States government and further demonstrated the role of the Democratic Party in promoting fascism. They have attacked workers, professionals, and students who oppose genocide, labeling them anti-Semitic (See article on this issue). Throughout the conference, PLP members spoke openly about why the U.S. is so determined to support Israel no matter what: the U.S. ruling class is determined to protect its Mideast oil resources and pipelines and maintain a power base against Iranian, Russian, and Chinese competing capitalist interests.

The leadership of APHA is firmly in bed with the Democratic Party. These liberal misleaders of public health workers have opposed any resolution or action against racist state violence and imperialism for years. Just before the conference, Georges Benjamin, head of APHA, tried to head off debate about genocide in Gaza by putting out a mealy-mouthed, hand-wringing statement about all violence being bad for health, while emphatically stating that Israel has a right to “defend” itself. He did not even call for a ceasefire, infuriating APHA members.

Public health workers fight back, take on the Zionists

A few friends quickly wrote a “latebreaker” policy statement calling for an immediate ceasefire, and the release of all hostages, and included historical



Ceasefire is not enough! We can end the bloodshed from Gaza to Sudan, and Ukraine with communist revolution

information about the Zionist apartheid system in Israel and Palestine (www.multiracialunity.org). The Zionists within APHA instead called for peace through charity and never once mentioned the word “occupation.” We organized our friends to attend hearings on the competing policy statements and spoke in favor of the ceasefire policy and against the deluded ahistorical Zionist position.

PLP members and the Palestine Health Justice group of the APHA's International Health Section prepared quickly for the APHA Governing Council (GC) meeting where such policy decisions are made. At a planning meeting the night before the vote, 75 people agreed to hold a silent protest and observe the GC vote. PLP members suggested being prepared with a chant if the ceasefire resolution failed. One newer member gathered everyone's contact information and started a Signal group chat that grew from 10 that evening to 80 by the following morning. Other students in the chat began helping refine and remind folks of the plan in a

great collective effort.

The morning of the vote, the Zionists handed out flyers full of lies about the ceasefire policy, but when the policy debate started, the back of the GC room was filled with 50 people wearing all black and holding or wearing single sheets of paper that said CEASEFIRE! As the meeting went on, that number tripled! The Zionists had organized their people to speak against the statement, repeating racist and false propaganda and calling our advocacy of a ceasefire “unbalanced.” PLP members provided leadership to the supporters of the anti-genocide policy statement on the convention floor. We spoke about the number of healthcare workers murdered by the Israeli government and the number of people who supported a ceasefire in the U.S. Supporters also attacked the racist statements of the Israeli fascists about the Palestinians (calling them

Continued on page 6

KCC

Resist bosses' racist requirements

BROOKLYN, NY — After marking one year of the multiracial antiracist fightback against racist police terror, Kingsborough Community College (KCC) students and faculty continue the struggle in a campus atmosphere of sharpening fascism at the hands of the liberal administration, public safety, and their bootlicking accomplices. However, students, faculty, and Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members in the campus antiracist club, Common Ground, are adapting to the racist administration's normalization of police surveillance and increased bureaucratic red tape.

PLers have contributed to continuing the struggle by deepening old friendships and making new ones. We struggle to push back against our previous limits in the dark night of low class struggle by expanding CHALLENGE newspaper distribution networks. This has kept the politics of multiracial antiracist fightback, internationalism, and communist revolution upfront as we marched through months of difficulty after difficulty!

Mass work tests patience and persistence

We soon learned that KCC's administration introduced new obstacles for Common Ground this year. The first was cracking down on informational club tabling by requiring that only both registered and "active" clubs could set up tables and distribute literature. In the past, any club could set up an information table and meet interested students before registering or reactivating.

Each semester, new paperwork including election results must be submitted for the club to be "reactivated." Common Ground's reactivation process entailed weeks of properly formatted paperwork, collecting signatures, and losing several potential club officers who were either a) barred for being freshmen and/or b) didn't pass the GPA eligibility requirements. Then came mandatory training meetings with the administration.

Upon reactivation, we met our next obstacle: this year: the administration has declared that informational tabling counts as a club "event," and therefore requires one month of notice to reserve through an online portal for event registration. On most days the tables are utterly empty, except for the regular military recruiters. (A Marine recruiter/ CHALLENGE reader confessed to us that the administration is very helpful in getting recruiters onto campus.) When Common Ground students and faculty agreed on a tabling schedule and requested it, we were denied, and given alternative days and times we were unable to meet!

As a final insult, our assigned general meeting room's newly installed door doesn't open with the student keys. Opening it requires contacting Public



Safety officers with the master keys each time, who often linger by the door. At the start of one recent meeting, a sergeant entered to wipe a stain off a table "to avoid the paperwork" of requesting custodial staff to do it.

The racism of requirements

The ease of allowing military recruiters on campus contrasts with the technical difficulty of getting student clubs started here. KCC is a two-year, predominantly Black, Muslim, Latin, and Asian immigrant campus where over 74 percent of students receive income-based Pell Grants, and 99 percent receive some type of city or state financial aid (NCES, 2021-2). Since the rules have tightened, the number of active clubs

has dropped from over 130 at the last available count about a decade ago, to less than 30 today.

Brooklyn College, also in CUNY and not far from KCC, is a four-year campus with a mostly white student body. Their administration does not bar freshmen officers or demand as many club requirements, including a minimum GPA. Many of the campus' 140 registered clubs table around campus grounds, distribute literature, and post it on various public bulletin boards. Unlike KCC's requirements for stamped Student Life pre-approval on posted flyers, many of the various political flyers found posted around Brooklyn College during a recent visit had no such stamp.

Overcome all hardships and STRUGGLE!

Difficult objective circumstances never excuse us from failing to organize and fight back. During this semester's club fair, our vibrant multiracial crew attracted the most student interest, as per usual. When the fascist Israeli bosses launched a genocide against the workers of Gaza, we defied the prohibition on tabling, distributed hundreds of leaflets, and made enthusiastic new contacts. We organized Latin America - Palestine solidarity through a Palestinian former student who spoke at a Brooklyn mass organization (see previous CHALLENGE).

Members of the club also helped organize a contingent of KCC students for the solidarity with Gaza demonstrations in Washington, DC, continuing our practice of building rapid responses to racism, and one of these students attended PLP's fall student conference. racism, and one of these students attended PLP's fall student conference.

We continue ongoing sharp political discussions analyzing how it can be that the heads of KCC's entire administrative Hydra are liberal, Black administrators; many are women. Despite coming from historically oppressed groups, so many of them not only continue to uphold racism but cynically draw on this history of oppression as part of their identity. Audaciously, they claim to have the students' best interests at heart, while claiming that antiracists and PLers in Common Ground don't.

Yes, the obstacles presented real challenges to reaching masses of students - but these attacks mean we're hurting the bosses, and each advance weakens them further. The central head of this Hydra is capitalism, and the administration won't let us organize without a fight. This fact exposes both illusion and reality: that liberal, Black-led institutions under the capitalist state can never be antiracist, and that the only solution out of this racist, sexist, genocidal imperialist hellscape is communist revolution. JOIN US! ☸

REBEL AGAINST LIBERAL FASCISM

Continued from page 1

names of the students who were planning the walkout. Many members of the group spoke specifically about the commissioner. Some residents, however, made the wider connection to imperialist war and genocide by the Israeli government. One teacher stated, "I believe it is crucial to recognize that support for international wars will always impact our local dynamics. The ongoing support of a bloody war funded by the United States, driven by profit, has repercussions at the micro, local level." Another worker also spoke out about the role of U.S. and British imperialism in the war - attempting to win workers to develop a more international, class analysis of the situation. The Party was also there to pass out a leaflet arguing that both nationalism and Zionism are two sides of the same deadly coin for workers. A Palestinian state will only funnel workers to be exploited by Palestinian bosses like Israeli workers are exploited by Israeli bosses. If workers are going to sacrifice their lives - it should be for a system that is going to free our class from these wars once and for all. We were met with positive reactions, particularly from some of the students who attended the meeting.

Overcome fear with struggle

Despite the growing anti-racist movement in West Orange, many of the organizers refuse to come out in

person and instead participate through Zoom. The big reason is that Zionists have been doxxing (sharing personal information) of critics of the Israeli genocide. The town government has been supportive of the Zionists in trying to silence any opposition. At one of the meetings, a Zionist threatened the anti-racists by claiming "they are armed" at public gatherings. As a result many of the organizers, especially Muslim workers, stopped going to public meetings and instead attended through Zoom.

This was a temporary setback for the movement. As a result, the group was planning to speak at a town council meeting. Seeing that there were only a few workers there to speak out against the genocide and racist support by the administration, the council was able to delay the public speaking part until 1 am! Even those in attendance sat quietly despite attempts by more militant activists and PLP members to speak out against the silencing.

Some steps have been made, however, to try and fight this fear. A community group in the neighboring town of Orange held a potluck dinner to talk about and make plans for further fightback. This included parents, students, and organizers from West Orange, Newark, Orange, and neighboring towns. The dinner was opened by a long-time anti-racist fighter who connected the Palestinians to the millions of displaced

workers all over the world. She also brought out the oil motives in the Middle East and connected them to the resources in Sudan, Afghanistan, and Haiti that drive imperialist ambitions. We then heard from various workers and students who reported on student walkouts, the desire to build groups that include working with organizers and their children, and how to build a movement that is going to fight both anti-semitism and anti-Muslim racism. The dinner was a perfect example of how workers overcome fear: by bringing workers and students together to organize and fight back.

Long road ahead

We have already learned many lessons. Whether it is struggling against the narrow liberal (and often nationalist) politics of the group or organizing social gatherings, we have learned that this is going to be a long-term struggle and we need to build stronger bonds with many of these members to win many of these students and workers to our line. When having one-on-one conversations when distributing our leaflet we see that students and workers are open to it. Still, as usual, the leadership of these groups ensures that the liberal line of the misleadership prevails. The potential is there, and we plan on being there for the long term to build the Party and win many of these courageous workers to fight for a communist future. ☸

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



On the auto workers' picket line

I traveled to Michigan during the auto strike and a couple of us headed out to the auto workers' picket lines to talk to workers about class struggle, fighting racism, and the communist revolution. We had some great conversations. One worker from the Dominican Republic has been working there for ten years. He has had several surgeries in that period, including his knee and hip, due to job-related problems. He emphatically denounced the multiple-tier system and proceeded to explain several aspects of our communist line to us! He said, "When you've got people doing the same job for different pay, some are struggling while some are not. That's nothing but division and it just shouldn't happen!" I told him how coal bosses in Kentucky pulled the same racist tactics because they thought bringing immigrants into the coal camps would prevent miners from organizing. I pointed out how such anti-worker ideology seeks to divide workers and create a justification for paying some even less. He exclaimed, "Right, they even used it to justify slavery! The capitalists take as much as they can convince us to allow." We talked about the media slander the union has been getting, using the same talking points from 100 years ago. "Yeah", he said, "it's corporate media for a reason -- that's who they work for. They say prices will rise if we get a raise. Well, prices have already been rising!"

The workers I talked to believe that strikes are necessary or else living standards will continue to deteriorate. "It's just unsustainable," declared another worker. Another worker mentioned that he had family from Germany, and I said, "Don't ask the media what Ford and GM were doing during WWII to support the

Nazis!" He responded by calling out Ford's anti-Semitism, noting how the Nazis awarded Henry Ford with the highest award a foreigner could receive for collaborating with them. Another worker declared, "You put your body on the line here for 30 years and the boss doesn't even wanna give us healthcare? No way! Health care shouldn't be a boss's bargaining chip, we workers should own the whole economy, state, and society. It's only common sense!"

The workers we talked to are clear -- they will fight hard not to be sold out like in 2008 -- and they're optimistic!

★★★★★

What a small world

In 1995 I was in a San Francisco hospital and was in conversation with another patient. We started talking about authors, and I said one of my favorites was Tillie Olsen, the beloved writer of working-class women's lives. We talked a little about her and he finally said "It sounds like you really like her. She's my aunt, and she's visiting me this afternoon. I'll introduce you."

When we met, I mentioned my father had been in the Communist Party in San Francisco in the 1930s, and she said "You look just like him!" They'd worked on the CP newspaper together, and during the 1934 general strike, they'd moved the printing press for leaflets from house to house every night to prevent the cops from smashing it.

We visited her friend in the hospital, Bill Bailey, a longshore worker whose lungs were so bad he could hardly speak, from corrosive cement dust in the holds of ships he was unloading. During the 1930s, he led a big group of CP members who crashed a party on a nazi luxury liner anchored in New York City and tore down the nazi flag.

According to a 3/23/2019 New York Post story, I read much later, Bailey quit the CP in 1956 saying Stalin was a "paranoid, sick SOB." This must explain why, after the visit, Tillie Olsen said seemingly out of the blue, "I never believed Khrushchev's lies about Stalin!"

The fight for against genocide of Palestinian workers on a college campus

As a new college student, it was motivating to see

activism on my campus coming from a high school in which many weren't politically involved. On November 8 and 9, I joined many in the fight for Palestine: students led speeches and chants such as "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!"

Even after walking and chanting, these students only grew with fervor and the chants became louder. One of the rallies culminated with students beating pinatas of Netanyahu and Biden, with only more enthusiasm from the students. Another rally delivered a coffin to the administration building in protest of the school's holdings in investment firm BlackRock, the world's largest investor in military hardware.

This wasn't taken lightly by the school chancellor and board, who sent out a letter one day later condemning "Anti Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Arab hate," but it was very targeted toward the peaceful protests against racism and genocide in Gaza, mentioning an instance of "Anti Semitic language." He however, did not mention many of the instances of harassment and intimidation that occurred against Muslim students.

While school leaders claim to be against all forms of bigotry, they turn a blind eye towards that affecting the already oppressed -- their only aim is to further the capitalist, fascist agenda, by intimidating students and protesters. The true nature of their financial and political interests is being revealed, reflecting the interests of wealthy business tycoons and political pawns that run the board. The primary goal of their funding of the Zionist government of Israel is to gain control over Mideast oil, furthering their financial assets through such a valuable resource.

While chants such as "from the river to the sea" have been viewed as anti semitic by some, they advocate for nationalist ideals that further divide the working class. Even during many of the speeches at these rallies, Hamas was not criticized for its slaughter of Israeli civilians on October 7 and nationalist ideals were further pushed to students by the leaders of the rally.

For the working class to be truly united, and for the true liberation of Palestine, it is important for us to acknowledge how we should unite and reject both anti-Palestinian racism and nationalism.

★★★★★

Antiracist organizing leads to "ceasefire" statement & communist connections

Continued from page 4

animals)—a reminder that "racism is a public health crisis."

The outcome

As the room kept filling with young people interested in seeing whether the APHA would take a stance on ceasefire, Executive Director Benjamin moaned, "What are we going to do? This could be awful" to a friend of ours, as he gestured to the determined young people in the back of the room. A compromise position was reached by jettisoning the 11-page policy statement with its 40+ references and just voting on a one-sentence resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire. Eighty-nine percent of the governing council members voted "Yes" and the crowd broke out in cheers. This victory, while hardly complete, represented the only large health-related organization to call for a Ceasefire and can be used to defend the many healthcare workers and students who face attacks by their institutions for opposing genocide.

Forty-five of us, including eight PLP members, met outside to debrief and discuss the next steps. Fighting imperialism and capitalism took center stage, as 25 people signed our mailing list and everyone got both a CHALLENGE and an APHA CHALLENGE. We met up with many of these students later that evening and had more political conversations with them.

This APHA conference was one of our most active annual meetings in years and showed that organizing in professional spaces and on the job is crucial for communists. The young people who spent much of

2023: Crisis & Fightback

Continued from page 8

But, 2023 was also the year of fightback. It was the year of strikes, 354 to be exact (Wall Street Journal, 12/4). From autoworkers to writers, health-care workers to pilots, hundreds of thousands are seeing that the world as it is now is unsustainable. From the climate march to the protests against genocide in Gaza, workers and youth took to the streets. We must continue the fightback against racism, sexism, and capitalism. PLP, wherever we were, waged struggles against the bosses' deadly system. We continue to carry the fight for communist revolution.



their first professional conference organizing this protest and demonstrating for three hours at the GC meeting show the great possibilities for the international working class. ✪

Ethnic cleansing was always the Zionist plan

Thin the Palestinian population "to a minimum.

I am for compulsory transfer; I do not see anything immoral in it."

Which of these was said in 1938 by Israel's first Prime Minister and which was said by the current Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu recently? Well, Netanyahu's is first, but you can see that the plan has not changed. In fact, as far back as 1895, the founder of Zionism, Theodor Herzl, said: "We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border... discreetly and circumspectly." An Israeli intelligence document on 10/13 stated: "The evacuation of the civilian population from Gaza to Sinai...will yield positive, long-term strategic outcomes for Israel, and is an executable option. It requires determination from the political echelon in the face of international pressure, with an emphasis on harnessing the support of the United States." And the support of the U.S. they certainly have, to the tune of \$14.3 billion extra dollars.

When the Israeli state was founded in 1948, with the support of Britain, it was to gain a pro-Western ally to control the newly important oil in the Middle East. The first Israeli government already had a plan to dispose of the nearly one million Arabs then living there - Plan D: expel them all. They succeeded in forcefully removing 5 out of 7 Palestinians and destroying 530 villages on 55 percent of the land Israel controlled. In 1967 Israel fought a war to conquer the rest of Palestine, which they have illegally militarily occupied since - the West Bank and Gaza. The U.S. is now the main funder of Israel for the same reasons that Britain first supported it - a base to protect oil and to protect U.U. interests against Iran, Russia, and China.

It is abundantly clear that Israel is now carrying out ethnic cleansing in Gaza, forcefully homogenizing an ethnically mixed population. Genocide is the deliberate killing of people from an ethnic group to destroy them. Over 18,000 Gazans have been killed to date, plus countless others buried under rubble, and countless thousands wounded. 85 percent of the 2.2 million inhabitants have been forced from their homes, and much of the surviving population is on the brink of death from starvation and dehydration according to aid agencies. Attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank are also increasing, with many killings by Israeli settlers as soldiers look on and the seizure of land and homes continues.

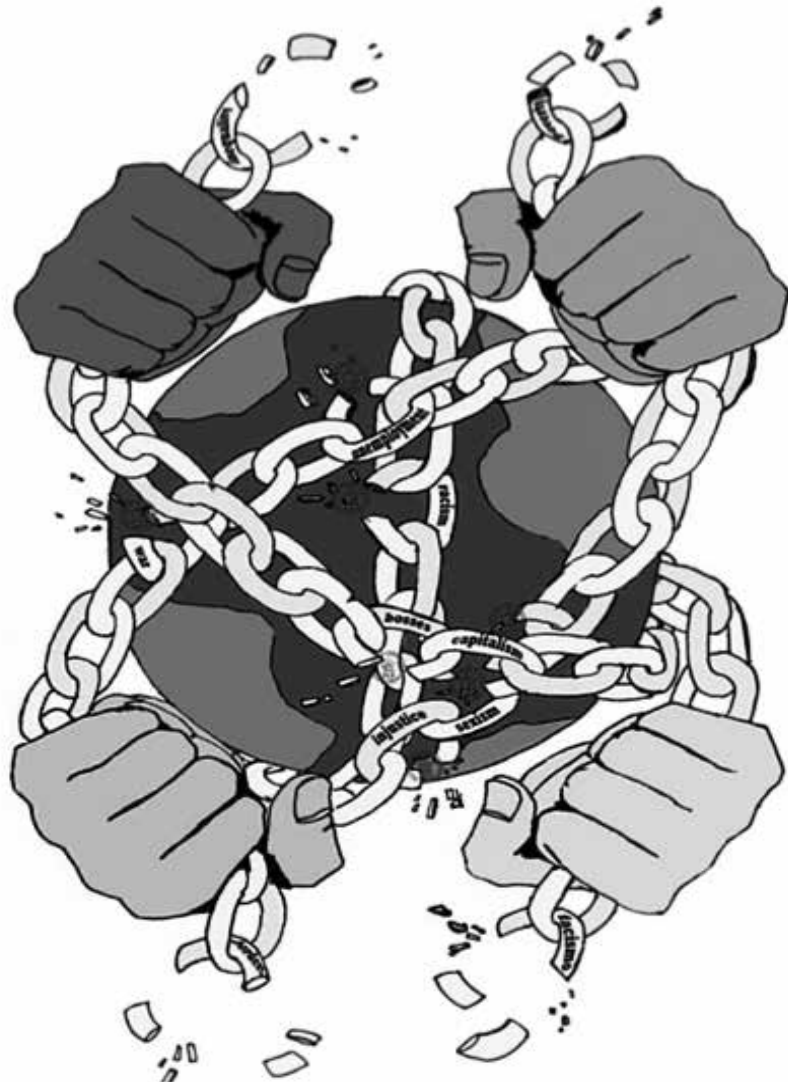
The justification for the current slaughter is the Hamas incursion into Israel on October 7, in which 1200 Israelis were killed. And there is no justification for this murder of civilians. However, it has recently been revealed that Israeli intelligence knew about Hamas' plan a year in advance but claims that the leading politicians were never told. This seems highly unlikely, less likely than that they welcomed an excuse to enact

their genocidal plan. In truth, Israel helped found Hamas in 1987 to counter secular nationalism, and the NY Times documents (12/10) that Israel has been giving millions to Hamas for years to keep two Palestinian leadership groups afloat - the other being Fatah in the West Bank - to prevent Palestinian unity.

The majority of Israelis and many Zionist Jews around the world have been won to applauding this massacre because they are raised on a diet of lies: that all Arabs inherently hate Jews and wish to kill them, that the Arabs left in 1948 voluntarily purely because they hate Jews, that there is no way to prevent another mass slaughter of Jews such as the Holocaust without having a fortress state. Zionists even think that Israel is a democracy despite giving rights only to Jews. Most Israelis also have little conception of what life is like in the Occupied Territories - that it is an ordinary civil society beset with brutalization by soldiers, massive imprisonment without charge, and severe restrictions

on work, housing, travel, and health care. Nonetheless, most Palestinians are anti-Zionist, not anti-Semitic, and welcome Jewish allies.

This Zionist nationalist hatred serves the Israeli ruling class well, for Israel is a capitalist state with a very small ruling elite and a shortage of adequate services for much of the population. But workers in Israel vent their anger on Palestinians, not the ruling class. Nationalism in Palestine, which although occupied is also a capitalist society, has also prevented the growth of a working class movement even though most Palestinians do not like Fatah or Hamas. The only hope for Palestinian or Jewish workers is to band together, indeed with other workers of the world, in a fight for an anti-racist, anti-nationalist communist society. Thousands are now protesting around the world as this pitiless genocide unfolds on our TV screens, but all of us too must join together in the long-range fight against imperialism and racism and for communism🇸🇦.



RED EYE ON THE NEWS ...

Columbia and NYU are landlords that happen to offer classes

NY Times, 12/10-State lawmakers will unveil legislation on Tuesday that would eliminate enormous property tax breaks for Columbia University and New York University, which have expanded to become among New York City's top 10 largest private property owners. The bills would require the private universities to start paying their full annual property taxes and for that money to be redistributed to the City University of New York, the largest urban public university system in the country...The amount the schools save annually has soared in recent decades as the two have bought more properties, and the value of their properties has also increased...the city's wealthiest universities were bigger and richer than ever before, amassing vast real estate portfolios that have drained the city budget...Columbia has grown its physical footprint to become the city's largest private landowner.

KKKops murder one man and arrest protesters as anger builds in Decatur, AL

SPLC, 11/17-"Over the course of the times we've had rallies and demonstrations to protest there's been nine arrests," said Aneesah Saafiyah...Her father, Danny Saafiyah Sr... "Our protests haven't been violent. None have been. No one has been attacking the police or anything like that. It's just the intimidation tactics

that the police use."

Stephen Clay Perkins, 39, was shot to death in the early hours of Sept. 29 in front of his home...Perkins was hit seven times. He was declared dead at a local hospital...Despite early assurances that the bodycam footage would be released in mid-October, that did not happen. As of today, the family has still not seen it.

Oil in Guyana means profits for ExxonMobil

Der Spiegel, 11/24-"There's the new Guyana! Guyana with oil!" Nicholas Deygo calls out as the boat heads towards his artificial island. "It wouldn't be possible without Exxon!"...Within just a few months, floating dredgers created some 44 acres of new land, roughly the size of 24 football fields. Such a thing has never been seen before in Guyana, the sparsely populated country on South America's Atlantic coast, sandwiched between Venezuela and Suriname...Enormous oil reserves were discovered off the coast here in 2015, shortly before 200 countries agreed to the Paris Climate Agreement, which was to herald the end of the fossil fuel era. Huge quantities of first-class "light sweet crude" are buried below the ocean floor, highly valued for its low sulfur content and the relative ease with which it can be refined...According to the plans forged by ExxonMobil and Guyana's government, the country will produce more crude oil per capita than any other country on the planet within five years. De-

spite the fact that the climate crisis poses a greater threat to Guyana than almost any other country in the world.

Capitalists weigh their anti immigrant racism with their need for workers to exploit

Washington Post, 11/9-National Population Projections estimate that the population will peak at almost 370 million in 2080 before receding to 366 million in 2100, an increase of only 9.7 percent between 2022 and 2100. That is far below the rate the country has grown each decade for most of the nation's history... Immigrant adults tend to be younger and have higher fertility rates than their native-born counterparts. Demographers say they are key to providing enough people to fill the labor force and balance out the swelling population of older Americans, and avoid the fate of countries such as Japan and Germany, which have among the world's highest share of people over 65. "These projections make clear that immigration is absolutely essential to the nation's future population growth," said William Frey, a senior demographer at the Brookings Institution who analyzed the data. "It is also necessary to counter the extreme aging we will otherwise experience with the youthfulness of immigrants and their children."

2023: RISING CRISIS & RISING FIGHTBACK



NYC Climate March



Israel-Palestine May Day

2023 was the year of rising capitalist crisis. Inter-imperialist rivalry continues to heat up between China and United states. The planet was the hottest year on record. Russia-Ukraine war continues. Wildfires and earthquakes ravage lives and environment. Bloody war tears up the working class in Sudan. The Apartheid regime of Israel commits genocide against the working class in Gaza. **Continued on page 6**



England Transit strike



Brooklyn May Day

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, December 29

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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